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PLESAL
E RUEPC #3102 1941552
UUUUU ZZH
1316362 JUL 82
SECSTATE WASHDC
PLESAL/AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR IMMEDIATE 8130
INFO RUEHME/AMEMBASSY MEXICO IMMEDIATE 1481

CLAS STATE 193102

E.O. 12065: N/A
TAGS: , CASC, CGEN
SUBJECT: THE FOLLOWING "IF ASKED ONLY" PRESS GUIDANCE ENTITLED "JOHN SULLIVAN, JOURNALIST MISSING IN EL SALVADOR" WAS SUBMITTED TO DEPARTMENT PRESS SPOKESMAN ON JULY 13, 1982

BEGIN TEXT:

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY NEW INFORMATION IN THE JOHN SULLIVAN CASE?

A. ON JUNE 10 THE U.S. EMBASSY IN EL SALVADOR RECEIVED A LETTER WHICH SAID THAT THE BODY OF A MAN WHO APPEARED TO AN AMERICAN WAS BURIED IN A SMALL TOWN (PLAN DE LOPEZ, NUEVO CUSCATALAN) OUTSIDE THE CITY OF SAN SALVADOR. ON THE BASIS OF THIS INFORMATION, THE EMBASSY INVESTIGATED BURIAL RECORDS, INTERVIEWED LOCAL OFFICIALS, AND ULTIMATELY REQUESTED THE EXHUMATION OF A BODY. THE EXHUMATION TOOK PLACE ON JULY 9. THE EMBASSY HAS ARRANGED FOR A FORENSIC SPECIALIST TO EXAMINE THE REMAINS. I WANT TO EMPHASIZE THAT NO IDENTIFICATION,

EVEN TENTATIVE, HAS YET BEEN POSSIBLE.

Q. IS THERE ANY CONNECTION BETWEEN THIS DISCOVERY AND THE STATEMENT BY TWO SALVADORAN GUERRILLAS IN MEXICO ON JULY 7 THAT SULLIVAN WAS IN JAIL IN EL SALVADOR?

A. THE EMBASSY WAS ACTING ON A LETTER RECEIVED A MONTH BEFORE THE GUERRILLAS MADE THEIR STATEMENT.

Q. JOHN SULLIVAN DISAPPEARED ON DECEMBER 28, 1980. WHY HAS IT TAKEN SO LONG TO FIND ANY INFORMATION?

A. THE EMBASSY HAS BEEN ACTIVELY SEEKING SULLIVAN'S WHEREABOUTS SINCE HIS DISAPPEARANCE. WE HAVE RECEIVED MANY TIPS AND LEADS IN THIS CASE. ALL HAVE BEEN INVESTIGATED, OR ARE BEING INVESTIGATED, BUT NONE HAVE NET PANNED OUT.

END TEXT (CA/PA : 0998A) STOESSEL

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY _____ DATE MAR 1 3 1984
RDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
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